Read Me and Data Dictionary for Child Tax Credit Research File Extract for 2022 CPS ASEC

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To facilitate study of the 2021 Child Tax Credit, the Census Bureau has assembled this research file of alternative Child Tax Credit variables that can be merged with the 2022 CPS ASEC public-use file.

These variables are different from the standard CPS ASEC Tax Model variables included with the CPS ASEC public-use file. They represent counterfactual values of tax credit amounts and federal tax liabilities if the 2021 Child Tax Credit expansion had not been enacted and the 2020 Child Tax Credit rules were maintained. By comparing these alternative variables to the Child Tax Credit variables included with the public-use file, analysts can study the impact of the 2021 Child Tax Credit expansion, holding all else equal.

The variables available in this extract include modeled values of: the Child Tax Credit using the 2020 program rules (OLD_CTC), the Additional Child Tax Credit (OLD_ACTC) using the 2020 program rules, and total federal income tax liability before (OLDFEDTAX_BC) and after refundable credits and Economic Impact Payment 3 (OLDFEDTAX_AC) accounting for these alternative Child Tax Credit variables.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses (CDC) were also expanded in 2021. To isolate the impact of the CTC expansion, it is necessary to hold these policies constant in the calculation of the counterfactual values. The EITC affected the 2020 Additional Child Tax Credit calculation through line 12 of the 2020 Form 1040 Schedule 8812. The CDC affected 2020 Child Tax Credit calculation through line 10 of the 2020 Child Tax Credit and Credit for Other Dependents Worksheet in Form 1040. The counterfactual variables included in this extract rely on the 2021 values of the EITC and CDC.

To examine the impact of the 2021 expansion to the Child Tax Credit, analysts should compare the sum of OLD_CTC and OLD_ACTC on this file to the sum of CTC_CRD and ACTC_CRD on the public-use person file. Analysts wishing to compare the impact of the refundable Child Tax Credit should compare OLD_ACTC to ACTC_CRD. OLD_CTC and CTC_CRD are not directly comparable.

Questions can be directed to sehsd.isb.list@census.gov.

Data Dictionary

File Name: alt_ctc_2021 (available in SAS and Stata formats)

Record Count: 152,732

All variables are numeric except pppos which is character.

These variables are produced using the CPS ASEC Tax Model and can be merged with the 2022 CPS ASEC person file using the merge variables ph_seq and pppos. The 2022 CPS ASEC person file is found here:

<https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-asec.html>

ph_seq	Household sequence number	
	00000..99999	Unique household identifier
pppos	Record type and sequence indicator	
	41..56	1st to 16th person in household
OLD_CTC	Calculation of 2020 Child Tax Credit and Other Dependent Credit using Calculation of 2021 Earned Income Tax Credit and Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	
	0..99999	Dollar amount
OLD_ACTC	Calculation of the 2020 Additional Child Tax Credit using Calculation of 2021 Earned Income Tax Credit and Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	
	0..99999	Dollar amount
OLDFEDTAX_AC	Federal income tax liability, after all refundable credits and Economic Impact Payment 3, using 2020 calculation of Child Tax Credit and Additional Child Tax Credit	
	OLDFEDTAX_AC=OLDFEDTAX_BC-OLD_ACTC-CDC_CRD-EIP_CRD-EIT_CRED	
	-99999..9999999	Dollar amount
OLDFEDTAX_BC	Federal income tax liability, before refundable credits, using 2020 calculation of Child Tax Credit	
	0..9999999	Dollar amount